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COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC KVP Project in Prora and VP Kommandaturas on Rugen Island

EVALUATION [REDACTED] 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT 8 January to 28 February 1953 25X1A

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 7 May 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE [REDACTED] 25X1X

1. The KVP stationed at Prora frequently practiced from 8 to 20 January 1953. Exercises held in the area south and southeast of Binz e.g. involved one 1st and one 5th Bn, one of which was under the command of Major Schwenke (fnu). The troops mainly practiced combat in woods with Soviet soldiers wearing red arm bands acting as mock enemy. Engineer companies frequently constructed barbed-wire entanglements in the area of Jagdschloss Granitz (castle). The KVP in the Sellin area practiced with smoke and tear gas. Two batteries, allegedly including the 5th Btry, practiced with guns and motor vehicles in the area south of Binz.
2. Source determined that the troops stationed at Prora were equipped mainly with Horch motor vehicles. Ambulances were of Granit make, and motorcycles were of BMW, Awo and Jawa make.
3. KVPs said that Geisel (fnu), general of the artillery, was the commanding general in Prora.¹
4. Between 1 and 20 February 1953, source determined that Soviet motor traffic in the area of the former KDF installation in Prora had ceased almost entirely. Soviet officers were frequently observed riding in KVP sedans which were mainly of BMW and Skoda make. Motor-vehicle [REDACTED] were observed.

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5. Source learned from KVPs, who wore dark-blue and/or black patches, that they trained with T-34 and JS tanks and heavy 203-mm guns.²
6. During the time of observation, source determined that a VP komendatura was established in the Preussischer Hof Hotel in Bergen. The komendatura was staffed with one junior lieutenant and 26 men, who wore red violet patches and furnished patrols checking streets, restaurants and the railroad station. Patrols on duty wore a white arm band with the red inscription KMT. Officers' patrols usually of three or four lieutenants or junior lieutenants were also frequently observed in the town area of Bergen. No KVP patrols were authorized to halt or check soldiers of the Soviet Army.
7. Between 17 and 28 February 1953, source determined that the KVP units stationed at the project in Prora totaled about 20,000 men. More than 1,000 Soviet soldiers were located in Section IV. Commanding KVP officer was Lieutenant Colonel Roeler (fnu), who was the successor to Lieutenant Colonel Bruckner (fnu). The KVPs were trained along Soviet lines by Soviet officer advisers and received training on Soviet-made weapons from rifles up to heavy guns and tanks. About 150 Soviet canvas-covered tanks

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and about 100 guns were observed at the project. [REDACTED]

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8. Source determined that a new Oberbaustab (main construction headquarters) under Waldemar Bekeschus, who had come from Delitzsch, was stationed at the project in Prora. The superior headquarters of the Oberbaustab was Section IV of the Projecting Office at the Ministry of the Interior, formerly VEB Entwurf (Designing). The KVP chief of the Oberbaustab was 26-year-old Captain Grund (fnu).⁴

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. No General of the Artillery Geisel is stationed at Prora. Source probably had in mind Major Geissler (fnu), commander of an infantry regiment of the Prora Div.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. This is the first report to mention 203-mm guns at the KVP.

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3. [REDACTED] Comment. The size of the Prora Div is overestimated. Several deserters said that the division numbers between 16,000 and 18,000 men. Lieutenant Colonel "paler" is unknown. It is fairly definitely believed that source referred to Colonel Roehr (fnu), the division commander.

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. Captain Grund (fnu) is the head of the construction administration with the headquarters of Armeegruppe Nord at Pasewalk. Prior to his appointment, he was head of the Oberbaustab at Prora. A previous report mentioned Section IV of the Projecting Office.

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